

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2142

To designate certain lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a National Scenic Area for protection of the watershed and scenic values, recreation use, protection of wildlife and their habitat, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23 (legislative day, MAY 16), 1994

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ROBB) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a National Scenic Area for protection of the watershed and scenic values, recreation use, protection of wildlife and their habitat, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mount Pleasant Na-
5 tional Scenic Area Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act with respect to the Mount
8 Pleasant National Scenic Area are to—

1 (1) ensure appropriate protection and preserva-
2 tion of the scenic quality, water quality, natural
3 characteristics, and water resources;

4 (2) protect and manage vegetation to provide
5 wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph
6 (1) above;

7 (3) provide areas that may develop characteris-
8 tics of old-growth forests; and

9 (4) provide a variety of recreation opportunities
10 that are not inconsistent with the purposes set forth
11 above.

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) There is hereby established in
14 the George Washington National Forest, Virginia, the
15 Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area (hereinafter re-
16 ferred to in this Act as the “scenic area”).

17 (2) The scenic area shall consist of certain lands in
18 the George Washington National Forest, Virginia, which
19 comprise seven thousand five hundred and eighty acres,
20 more or less, as generally depicted on a map entitled
21 “Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area—Proposed”,
22 dated June 21, 1993.

23 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture,
24 (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”)
25 shall administer the scenic area in accordance with this

1 Act and the laws and regulations generally applicable to
2 the National Forest System. In the event of conflict be-
3 tween this Act and other laws and regulations, this Act
4 shall take precedence.

5 (c) ROADS.—After the date of enactment of this Act,
6 no new permanent roads shall be constructed within the
7 scenic area: *Provided*, That this provision shall not be con-
8 strued to deny access to private lands or interests therein
9 in the scenic area.

10 (d) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—No timber harvest
11 shall be allowed within the scenic area, except as may be
12 necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and
13 to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstand-
14 ing the foregoing, the Secretary may engage in vegetation
15 manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife
16 clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested
17 for personal use along perimeter roads under such condi-
18 tions as the Secretary may impose.

19 (e) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—Motorized travel shall be
20 allowed on State Route 635 and on Forest Development
21 Road 51, such Road 51 shall be subject to those motorized
22 travel conditions the Secretary may impose. Other than
23 as provided above, motorized travel shall not be permitted
24 within the scenic area, except that such travel may be per-
25 mitted within the area as necessary for administrative use

1 in furtherance of the purposes of this Act and on tem-
2 porary routes in support of wildlife management projects.

3 (f) FIRE.—Wildfires shall be suppressed in a manner
4 consistent with the purposes of this Act, using such means
5 as the Secretary deems appropriate.

6 (g) INSECTS AND DISEASE.—Insect and disease out-
7 breaks may be controlled in the scenic area to maintain
8 scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to
9 visitors or to protect private lands.

10 (h) WATER.—The scenic area shall be administered
11 so as to maintain or enhance existing water quality.

12 (i) MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as prac-
13 ticable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary shall file a map and boundary description of the
15 scenic area with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
16 and Forestry of the United States Senate and the Com-
17 mittee on Agriculture of the United States House of Rep-
18 resentatives. The map and description shall have the same
19 force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the
20 Secretary is authorized to correct clerical and typo-
21 graphical errors in such boundary description and map.
22 Such map and boundary description shall be on file and
23 available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief
24 of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. In the

1 case of any discrepancy between the acreage and the map
2 description in subsection (a)(2), the map shall control.

3 (j) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within three years of en-
4 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a manage-
5 ment plan for the scenic area as an amendment to the
6 Land and Resource Management Plan for the George
7 Washington National Forest. Such an amendment shall
8 conform to the provisions of this Act. Nothing in this Act
9 shall require the Secretary to revise the Land and Re-
10 source Management Plan for the George Washington Na-
11 tional Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and
12 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.

13 (k) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
14 all federally owned lands within the scenic area are hereby
15 withdrawn from disposition under the mining, mineral,
16 and geothermal leasing laws, including all amendments
17 thereto.

○